

DIXIE TRANSPORTATION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (DTEC)
MINUTES
September 16, 2009

PRESENT

Suzanne Allen, Chair, St. George City, Council Member
Nathan Lee, UDOT, Region 4 Director
Jerry Blair, Ivins City, Council Member
Jerry Lewis, UDOT, Commissioner
Lowell Elmer, Dixie MPO, Director
Curt Hutching, Dixie MPO, Planner
Larry Bulloch, St. George City, Public Works Director
James Christian, FHWA, Utah Administrator
Kelly Lund, FHWA
Cameron Cutler, DTAC Member
Zach Renstrom, Engineer, Bush & Gudgell
Miriam Palma, St. George City, Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

Suzanne Allen called the meeting to order at 12:05. She noted that there were new people in attendance and asked that everyone introduce themselves.

Following the introductions, she asked James Christian, new FHWA Utah Division Administrator, to tell the group about himself. Mr. Christian indicated that he is originally from Illinois, but came to Utah from Florida. He has worked for FHWA for 15 years.

MINUTES

Chairman Allen requested a review of the minutes and a motion. Nathan Lee noted one correction. In the section dealing with the I-15/Dixie Drive Interchange, the bid was awarded to Granite Construction and Ralph Wadsworth Construction, not Wadsworth Brothers.

Motion: Jerry Blair made a motion to accept the August 19, 2009 meeting minutes as corrected.

Second: Jerry Lewis seconded.

Vote: All voted "aye" and the motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

MODIFICATION OF 2007-2030 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN CONTINGENT ON PUBLIC COMMENT

Due to lack of a quorum, this item was tabled to the next meeting.

INFORMATION ITEMS

ITS Communications Plan - Curt Hutchings told the group that Transcor has completed the ITS Communications study. They made suggestions for improvements to the system, the first being to increase the number of communication hubs from one to nine. These hubs would connect all forms of communication. Conduit is being added to all new and reconstructed roads

to afford future communication opportunities.

The DTAC reviewed the study at their last meeting and agreed to accept it as written.

Human Services Transportation Implementation Coordination Tool

Curt Hutchings noted that the MPO recently engaged in an effort aimed at providing operational, financial, institutional and strategic considerations for coordinating transportation in the Dixie area.

Approximately 40 stake holders were involved in these meetings. They identified 13 strategies that could be used to further coordination between agencies that provide transportation for target groups e.g., senior, low income and disabled citizens. In their review, members of the DTAC felt that Strategy #8, in Phase II, Hurdle Insurance Barriers, should be moved to Phase I, but otherwise agreed with the recommendations.

Copies of the CTI Tool are available on the MPO website or through Curt Hutchings at the Five County AOG Office.

Transit Corridor Preservation Study

Curt told group members that Springdale and other communities near Zion Park, had requested that this study be expanded to include a transit study from Zion Park to Hurricane. When informed of the cost, they were only able to raise half of it. They have decided to do a stand alone study to be incorporated it into the MPO study at a later date.

Southern Parkway, Phase III, Study

Lee Cabell gave an update on this study. He told the group that since March, the DTAC has been meeting monthly with property owners, cities, the county and other affected entities. He felt that the group discussions had led to a successful project. The main goal was to unite the entities and develop a common master plan for this area along the Southern Parkway from the Replacement Airport to Warner Valley Road. Lee led the discussion through the Executive Summary of the study and answered questions dealing with alignment, roadway design standards, access management standards and land use.

He said that the DTAC has accepted the study and he would be working with the entities to amend their masterplans. He noted that the City of Washington is already in the process of updating their Transportation Master Plan.

The complete study can be accessed through the Dixie MPO website.

Suzanne Allen left at this point and requested that Lowell Elmer finish conducting the meeting. Lowell expressed appreciation for Suzanne. He noted that she has dedicated a great deal of time to this Council and associated committees.

Potential Land Development Issues

No potential conflicts were noted at this time.

Black Ridge/Hilton Drive/300 East in Washington City Funding Update

Lowell Elmer reminded the group that in past meetings they had discussed the possibility of

moving remaining ARRA funds from the Hilton Drive project to the Virgin River Bridge in Washington City. However, it was not clear what the amount of excess funds would be. He said that due to time constraints imposed by ARRA, UDOT needs to know how much money will be transferred. The group discussed the fact that the construction estimate for the project was below the acquired funding, but that St. George City has submitted a change order for sewer work and to improve the link from 250 East to Hilton Drive.

Nathan Lee indicated that approval of the change order would be under the auspices of the MPO and that the UDOT role is to ensure that all items are appropriate for ARRA funding. He indicated that the change order is acceptable for funding, but felt that there had been a commitment to move the funds to the Virgin River Bridge.

Lowell committed to research past minutes to see if a motion had indeed been approved to move a certain amount of funding to the Washington City project. He felt, however, that while it had been discussed, no specific commitment had been made.

Nathan indicated that the State has until February to start construction on any ARRA projects and that he would need to know by November how much funding would be available.

It was decided to hold a special meeting of the DTEC next week to come to a firm decision on the matter. Public meetings must be advertised 48-hours in advance.

UDOT/FHWA BUSINESS

Kelly Lund reminded the group that the federal fiscal year ends September 30 and asked that all FHWA projects be reviewed and invoices submitted. SAFTYLU funding will end on that date.

NEXT MEETING

October 21, 2009